

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 176952

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OCON, LI

SUBJECT: MESSAGE FROM MR. NEWSOM TO THE AFRICAN REGIONAL
CONFERENCE OF PEACE CORPS DIRECTORS, SEPTEMBER 9 - 14,
MONROVIA

FOR PC/AF - ANDREW BELL

1. I WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS AGAIN MY DEEP INTEREST IN THE
PEACE CORPS AND WISH YOU AND THE PEACE CORPS DIRECTORS
ASSEMBLED IN MONROVIA A SUCCESSFUL CONFERENCE.
2. DURING MY TRIPS TO AFRICA I HAVE MET NUMEROUS STAFF
AND PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS. ONE CANNOT BUT BE IMPRESSED
BY THE MANY WAYS THE PEACE CORPS CONSTRUCTIVELY EXPRESSES
THE INTEREST OF THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES IN AFRICA.
3. THE PEACE CORPS MAKES A MAJOR CONTRIBUTION TO AFRICA'S
DEVELOPMENT. WE ARE KEENLY INTERESTED IN THE EFFECTIVENESS
OF PEACE CORPS PROGRAMS AND IN ASSISTING PEACE CORPS IN
WHATEVER WAY WE CAN. WE ARE PLEASED TO TAKE EVERY
APPROPRIATE OCCASION TO EMPHASIZE THE IMPORTANCE WE
ATTACH TO THE EFFORTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF PEACE CORPS IN
AFRICA.
4. THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR DISCUSSION OF PROGRAMS AND GOALS

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PAGE 02 STATE 176952

BETWEEN STATE AND PEACE CORPS REPRESENTATIVES BOTH IN

AFRICA AND IN WASHINGTON DURING THE PAST YEAR HAVE BEEN PRODUCTIVE AND GREATLY APPRECIATED.

5. I WOULD LIKE TO RECOGNIZE THE SPECIAL CHARACTER OF THE PEACE CORPS. IN ITS INDEPENDENCE AND IN THE DEDICATION OF ITS PEOPLE TO SERVICE LIES ITS STRENGTH. WE WANT TO CONTINUE TO EMPHASIZE THAT THE PEACE CORPS IS SOMETHING UNIQUE, DIFFERENT FROM THE NORMAL FORMS OF GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS, WHOSE ONLY PURPOSE IS TO IMPLEMENT THE VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTION OF OUR CITIZENS TO A BETTER LIFE IN AFRICA AND THE REST OF THE DEVELOPING WORLD.

6. I BELIEVE THE PEACE CORPS WILL HAVE AS IMPORTANT A ROLE IN THE FUTURE AS IT HAS HAD IN THE PAST. MY VERY BEST WISHES TO ALL OF YOU. RUSH

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